

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104241

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) XA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S APRIL 21 MEETING WITH THE AFRICAN
AMBASSADORS

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, ON APRIL 21, TWO DAYS BEFORE
HIS DEPARTURE, THE SECRETARY MET FOR 30 MINUTES WITH THE
AFRICAN AMBASSADORS AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN
WASHINGTON OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OAU TO DISCUSS HIS
APRIL 24 - MAY 6 TRIP TO AFRICA. THE MEETING WAS THE
SECRETARY'S FOURTH WITH THE GROUP AND WAS HELD IN THE 8TH
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FLOOR ADAMS ROOM. AFTER INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ABOUT HIS

AFRICAN TRIP AND COMMENTS BY THE DEAN OF THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AMBASSADOR PEAL OF LIBERIA, THE SECRETARY RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS FROM THE AMBASSADORS OF SOMALIA, GHANA AND GUINEA CONCERNING SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF HIS TRIP.

2. IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS TRIP, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO EMPHASIZE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE

OF AFRICA IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND, IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND GOODWILL AND NOT CONFRONTATION, TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS THAT ARE OF MAJOR CONCERN TO AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES. HIS ATTENDANCE AT UNCTAD IV IN NAIROBI, WHERE HE WILL MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS, WILL UNDERLINE US COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT WAS IN THE US INTEREST.

3. THE SECRETARY DENIED PRESS SPECULATION THAT US SOUGHT TO DIVIDE AFRICANS, GAIN DOMINANCE THERE OR THAT TRIP WAS IN REACTION TO "CERTAIN OUTSIDE POWERS". HE STRESSED THAT FOR OVER A YEAR HE HAS PLANNED TO VISIT AFRICA -- LONG BEFORE CURRENT CONTROVERSIES IN AFRICA, THAT THE BASIS OF OUR AFRICAN POLICY IS THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICAN NATIONS, THAT AFRICAN UNITY IS ESSENTIAL TO THAT PURPOSE, AND THAT US HAS NO INTEREST IN ACHIEVING A DOMINANT POSITION IN AFRICA. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE US WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED IN ITS APPROACH TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND THAT NO ONE SHOULD TRY TO EXERT SUCH PRESSURE ON HIS TRIP.

4. IN ENDING HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS THE SECRETARY REITERATED THAT HE IS GOING TO AFRICA TO SEE WHETHER THE US CAN RESPOND TO AFRICAN POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS FOR MAJORITY RULE AND TO THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF AFRICA. THE VISIT IS NOT BEING UNDERTAKEN FOR PURPOSES OF CONFRONTATION OR TO TELL AFRICANS HOW TO ARRANGE THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR PEAL UNDERLINED INDEPENDENT

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DENCE, MAJORITY RULE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS KEY ISSUES WHICH HAVE GRIPPED THE IMAGINATION OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE AND THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES HE WILL VISIT.

6. IN RESPONSE TO SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU'S QUERY ABOUT WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD MEET WITH LEADERS OF LIBERATION GROUPS, THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL SOME LIBERATION LEADERS ALREADY HAD BEEN MAKING PRONOUNCEMENTS,

AND THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ASK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SUPPORT MOVEMENTS WHICH INSULT THE US. WHILE THE US GAINS NO LARGE ADVANTAGE FROM SUCH MEETINGS, IN PRINCIPLE HE IS PREPARED TO MEET LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS, ESPECIALLY THE RHODESIAN LEADERS.

7. IN RESPONSE TO GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR QUARM'S QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE US PLANNED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH

THE MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA THE SECRETARY REITERATED HIS STATEMENT AT THE JANUARY 15 MEETING WITH THE AFRICANS THAT THE US IS NOT OPPOSED TO THE MPLA AS AN AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. IN PRINCIPLE THE US IS NOT OPPOSED TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA -- IF ANGOLA WISHES TO BE AN AFRICAN STATE IN AN AFRICAN FRAMEWORK RATHER THAN A BASE FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO POLICY PROBLEMS FOR THE US IF THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR HAD BEEN CONFINED TO AFRICAN ISSUES AND IF IT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN AN AFRICAN FRAMEWORK. THE US CONCERN HAS BEEN AND REMAINS THE MASSIVE INTERVENTION BY THE SOVIET UNION AND BY CUBA. THE US IS NOT AND CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE INTRODUCTION OF 12-15,000 CUBAN FORCES INTO AFRICA.

8. GUINEAN AMBASSADOR BAH STRESSED THAT THE ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DOMINATED AFRICAN THINKING AND HE URGED THE US, WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO ACT, TO HELP ACHIEVE THOSE OBJECTIVES. IN RESPONSE THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS GOING TO AFRICA TO ACHIEVE RESULTS AND NOT FOR CEREMONIAL REASONS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PUT THE UNITED STATES BEHIND THE DRIVE FOR MAJORITY RULE AND THAT HE INTENDED TO TAKE STEPS TO HELP ACHIEVE IT. HIS ATTENDANCE AT UNCTAD WAS TO HELP ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS THAT WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO AFRICA
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AND OTHER LDC'S. IN GOING TO THE UNCTAD MEETING HE INTENDED TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THE SECRETARY ENDED THE MEETING WITH THE STATEMENT THAT WHEN HE MET WITH THEM AGAIN AFTER HIS RETURN HE HOPED THEY WOULD SEE THAT GREAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN BOTH AREAS.

9. DURING THE MEETING THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD, AT A LATER DATE, BE ABLE TO VISIT A FEW ADDITIONAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOT ON HIS SCHEDULE. SISCO

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